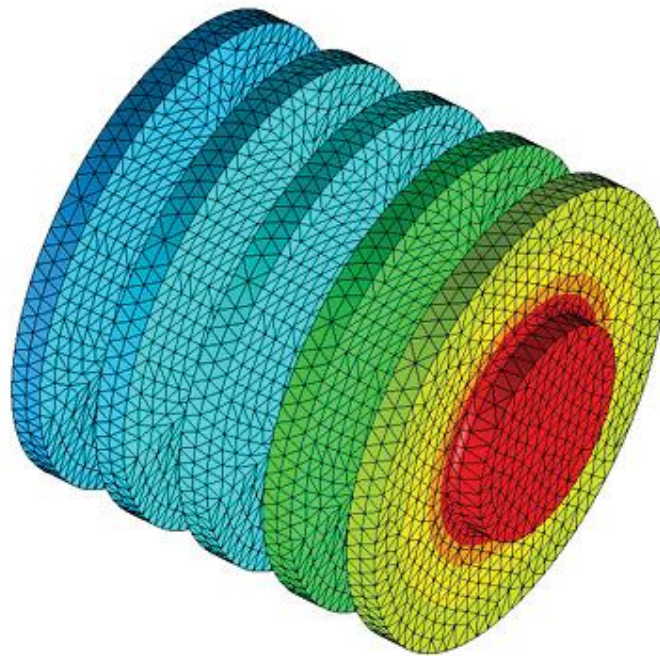


# Thermal Analysis

with SOLIDWORKS® Simulation 2015  
and Flow Simulation 2015



Paul M. Kurowski



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# Table of contents

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<b>About the Author</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>Table of contents</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>Before You Start</b>	<b>6</b>
Notes on hands-on exercises and functionality of Simulation	
Prerequisites	
Selected terminology	
<b>1: Introduction</b>	<b>10</b>
Heat transfer by conduction	
Heat transfer by convection	
Heat transfer by radiation	
Thermal boundary conditions	
Analogies between thermal and structural analysis	
Thermal elements: solids and shells	
Scalar and vector entities, presenting results	
Steady state thermal analysis	
Transient thermal analysis	
Linear thermal analysis	
Nonlinear thermal analysis	
<b>2: Hollow plate</b>	<b>26</b>
Heat transfer by conduction	
Heat transfer by convection	
Different ways of presenting results of thermal analysis	
Convergence analysis in thermal problems	
Solid elements in heat transfer problems	
Shell elements in heat transfer problems	
<b>3: L bracket</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Heat transfer by conduction	
Use of 2D models	
Singularities in thermal problems	

**4: Thermal analysis of a round bar**

Error! Bookmark not defined.

- Heat transfer by conduction
- Thermal conductivity
- Heat transfer by convection
- Convection boundary conditions
- Thermal resistance
- Prescribed temperature boundary conditions
- Heat power
- Heat flux

**5: Floor heating duct – part 1**

Error! Bookmark not defined.

- Heat transfer by conduction
- Prescribed temperature boundary conditions
- Heat power
- Heat flux
- Heat flux singularities
- Analogies between structural and thermal analysis

**6: Floor heating duct – part 2**

Error! Bookmark not defined.

- Heat transfer by convection
- Free and forced convection
- Convection coefficient
- Ambient (bulk) temperature

**7: Hot plate**

Error! Bookmark not defined.

- Transient thermal analysis
- Conductive heat transfer
- Convective heat transfer
- Heat power
- Thermostat
- Thermal inertia

**8: Thermal and thermal stress analysis of a coffee mug**

Error! Bookmark not defined.

- Transient thermal analysis
- Thermal stress analysis
- Thermal symmetry boundary conditions
- Structural symmetry boundary conditions
- Use of soft springs

**9: Thermal and thermal buckling analysis of a link** Error! Bookmark not defined.

Buckling caused by thermal effects  
Interpretation of Buckling Load Factor

**10: Thermal analysis of a heat sink** Error! Bookmark not defined.

Analysis of an assembly  
Thermal contact conditions  
Steady state thermal analysis  
Transient thermal analysis  
Thermal resistance layer  
Thermal symmetry boundary conditions

**11: Radiative power of a black body** Error! Bookmark not defined.

Heat transfer by radiation  
Emissivity  
Black body  
Radiating heat out to space  
Transient thermal analysis  
Heat power  
Heat energy

**12: Radiation of a hemisphere** Error! Bookmark not defined.

Heat transfer by radiation  
Emissivity  
Radiating heat out to space  
View factors  
Heat power

**13: Radiation between two bodies** Error! Bookmark not defined.

Heat transfer by radiation  
Emissivity  
Radiating heat out to space  
View factors  
Heat power  
Closed system  
Open system

<b>14: Heat transfer with internal fluid flow</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Introduction to Flow Simulation	
Using Flow Simulation for finding convection coefficients in internal fluid flow	
Interfacing between Flow Simulation and Thermal analysis	
Interfacing between Flow Simulation and structural (Static) analysis	
<b>15: Heat transfer with external fluid flow</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Using Flow Simulation for finding convection coefficients in external fluid flow	
Interfacing between Flow Simulation and Thermal analysis	
<b>16: Radiative Heat Transfer</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Radiative heat transfer problem solvable with Thermal Study in SOLIDWORKS	
Simulation and with Flow Simulation	
<b>17: NAFEMS Benchmarks</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Importance of benchmarks	
One dimensional heat transfer with radiation	
One dimensional transient heat transfer	
Two dimensional heat transfer with convection	
<b>18: Summary and miscellaneous topics</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Summary of exercises in chapters 1-13	
Nonlinear transient problems	
Advanced options of thermal study	
Closing remarks	
<b>19: Glossary of terms</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>20: References</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>21: List of exercises</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.

# Before You Start

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## *Notes on hands-on exercises and functionality of Simulation*

This book goes beyond a standard software manual. It takes a unique approach by bridging the theory of heat transfer with examples showing the practical implementation of thermal analysis. This book builds on material covered in “**Engineering Analysis with SOLIDWORKS Simulation 2014**”.

We recommend that you study the exercises in the order presented in the book. As you go through the exercises, you will notice that explanations and steps described in detail in earlier exercises are not repeated in later chapters. Each subsequent exercise assumes familiarity with software functions discussed in previous exercises and builds on the skills, experience, and understanding gained from previously presented problems. Exceptions to this sequential approach are chapters 14, 15, 16 where **Flow Simulation** is used. These chapters may be skipped by readers not interested in problems involving **Flow Simulation**.

The functionality of **SOLIDWORKS Simulation** depends on which software **Simulation** product is used.

Exercises in this book require different levels of **SOLIDWORKS Simulation** functionality and this depends on which Simulation product is used. The **SOLIDWORKS Simulation** Product Matrix document is available at:

<http://www.SOLIDWORKS.com/sw/products/simulation/simulation-matrices.htm>

All exercises in this book use **SOLIDWORKS** models, which can be downloaded from [www.SDCpublications.com](http://www.SDCpublications.com). Most exercises do not contain any **Simulation** studies; you are expected to create all studies, results plots, and graphs yourself. The only exception the cover page part model RADIATOR 2015 which comes with all studies defined. All problems presented here have been solved with **SOLIDWORKS Simulation Premium** running on Windows 7 in a 64 bit operating environment.

Working on exercises you may notice that your results may be slightly different from results presented in this book. This is because numerical results may differ slightly depending on the operating system and software service pack.

We encourage you to explore each exercise beyond its description by investigating other options, other menu choices, and other ways to present results. You will soon discover that the same simple logic applies to all functions in **SOLIDWORKS Simulation**, be it structural or thermal analysis.

This book is not intended to replace software manuals. Therefore, not all Thermal Analysis capabilities with **Simulation** are covered. The knowledge acquired by the reader will not be strictly software specifics. The same concepts, tools and methods apply to any FEA software.

### ***Prerequisites***

“**Thermal Analysis with SOLIDWORKS Simulation**” is not an introductory text to **SOLIDWORKS Simulation**. Rather, it picks up Thermal Analysis from where it was left in the pre-requisite textbook “**Engineering Analysis with SOLIDWORKS Simulation**”. If you are new to **SOLIDWORKS Simulation** we recommend to use “**Engineering Analysis with SOLIDWORKS Simulation**” to gain essential familiarity with Finite Element Analysis. At the very least go through chapters 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 10 of that pre-requisite textbook.

The following prerequisites are recommended:

- ❑ An understanding of Heat Transfer Analysis
- ❑ An understanding of Structural Analysis
- ❑ An understanding of Solid Mechanics
- ❑ Familiarity with **SOLIDWORKS Simulation** to the extend covered in “**Engineering Analysis with SOLIDWORKS Simulation**” or equivalent experience
- ❑ Familiarity with the Windows Operating System

***Selected terminology***

The mouse pointer plays a very important role in executing various commands and providing user feedback. The mouse pointer is used to execute commands, select geometry, and invoke pop-up menus. We use Windows terminology when referring to mouse-pointer actions.

Item	Description
<b>Click</b>	Self-explanatory
<b>Double-click</b>	Self-explanatory
<b>Click-inside</b>	Click the left mouse button. Wait a second, and then click the left mouse button inside the pop-up menu or text box. Use this technique to modify the names of folders and icons in <b>SOLIDWORKS Simulation Manager</b> .
<b>Drag and drop</b>	Use the mouse to point to an object. Press and hold the left mouse button down. Move the mouse pointer to a new location. Release the left mouse button.
<b>Right-click</b>	Click the right mouse button. A pop-up menu is displayed. Use the left mouse button to select a desired menu command.

All **SOLIDWORKS** file names appear in CAPITAL letters, even though the actual file names may use a combination of capital and small letters. Selected menu items and **SOLIDWORKS Simulation** commands appear in **bold**, **SOLIDWORKS** configurations, **SOLIDWORKS Simulation** folders, icon names and study names appear in *italics* except in captions and comments to illustrations. **SOLIDWORKS** and **Simulation** also appear in bold font. Bold font may also be used to draw reader's attention to particular term.





# 1: Introduction

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## *Topics covered*

- ❑ Heat transfer by conduction
- ❑ Heat transfer by convection
- ❑ Heat transfer by radiation
- ❑ Thermal boundary conditions
- ❑ Analogies between thermal and structural analysis
- ❑ Thermal elements: solids and shells
- ❑ Scalar and vector entities, presenting results
- ❑ Steady state thermal analysis
- ❑ Transient thermal analysis
- ❑ Linear thermal analysis
- ❑ Nonlinear thermal analysis

## *What is Thermal Analysis?*

Thermal analysis deals with heat transfer in solid bodies. We approach thermal analysis from the perspective of a user experienced in structural analysis such as static, modal, buckling etc. as implemented in **SOLIDWORKS Simulation**. You will soon notice that experience in structural analysis is directly transferable to thermal analysis because of the close analogies between structural and thermal analyses. The temperature is analogous to displacement in structural analysis, strain to temperature gradient, and stress to heat flux. Selected analogies are summarized in Figure 1-1.

Structural Analysis	Thermal Analysis
Displacement [m]	Temperature [K]
Strain [1]	Temperature gradient [K/m]
Stress [N/m <sup>2</sup> ]	Heat flux [W/m <sup>2</sup> ]
Load [N] [N/m] [N/m <sup>2</sup> ] [N/m <sup>3</sup> ]	Heat source [W] [W/m] [W/m <sup>2</sup> ] [W/m <sup>3</sup> ]
Prescribed displacement [m]	Prescribed temperature [K]
Pressure [N/m <sup>2</sup> ]	Prescribed heat flux [W/m <sup>2</sup> ]
Hook's law: $\sigma = E \frac{du}{dx}$	Fourier's law: $q = -k \frac{dT}{dx}$
Stiffness matrix	Conductivity matrix

Figure 1-1: Analogies between structural and thermal analyses with units in SI system.

*Different system of units may be used except of radiation problems where temperature is absolute and must be expressed in Kelvins.*

The primary unknown in structural analysis is displacement; the primary unknown in thermal analysis is temperature. This leads to an important difference between structural and thermal analysis performed with the finite element method. Displacement, which is a vector and includes both translation and rotation requires up to six degrees of freedom per node. The number of degrees of freedom in structural analysis depends on the type of elements, for example solid elements have three degrees of freedom and shell elements have six degrees of freedom per node. Two dimensional structural elements have two degrees of freedom per node. Temperature is a scalar and requires only one degree of freedom per node, regardless of element type. This makes thermal problems much easier to solve because thermal models typically have fewer degrees of freedom as compared to structural models.

Another, conceptual difference is that thermal analysis is never a “static” analysis. If heat flow does not change, then the problem is “steady state analysis” and not static because heat flow never stops. If heat flow changes with time, then problem is called transient.

## ***Mechanisms of heat transfer***

### **Conduction**

In a solid body, the energy is transferred from a high temperature region to a low temperature region. The rate of heat transfer per unit area is proportional to the material thermal conductivity, cross sectional area and temperature gradient in the normal direction; it is inversely proportional to the distance (Figure 1-2). This mode of heat transfer is referred to as conduction:

$$Q_{COND} = kA(T_{HOT} - T_{COLD})/L$$

Where:

$Q_{COND}$  – Heat transferred by conduction [W]

$k$  – Thermal conductivity [W/m/K]

$A$  – Cross sectional area [m<sup>2</sup>]

$T_{HOT}$  – Temperature on the hot side [K]

$T_{COLD}$  – Temperature on the cold side [K]

$L$  – Distance of heat travel [m]

Conduction is responsible for heat transfer inside a solid body.

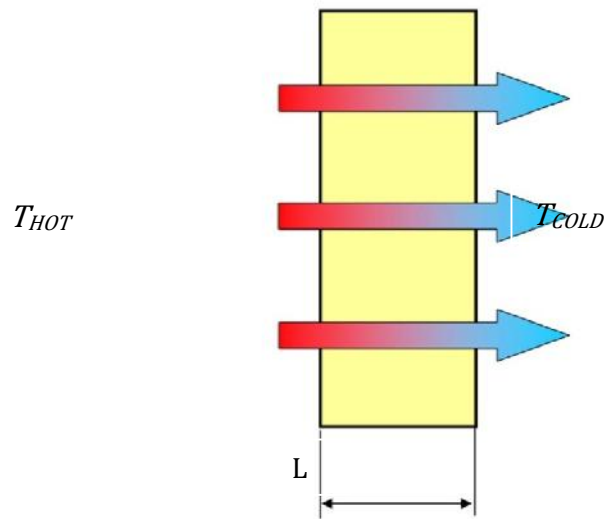


Figure 1-2: Heat transfer by conduction.

*Conduction is responsible for heat transfer inside a solid body.*

Thermal conductivity is vastly different for different materials as shown in Figure 1-3.

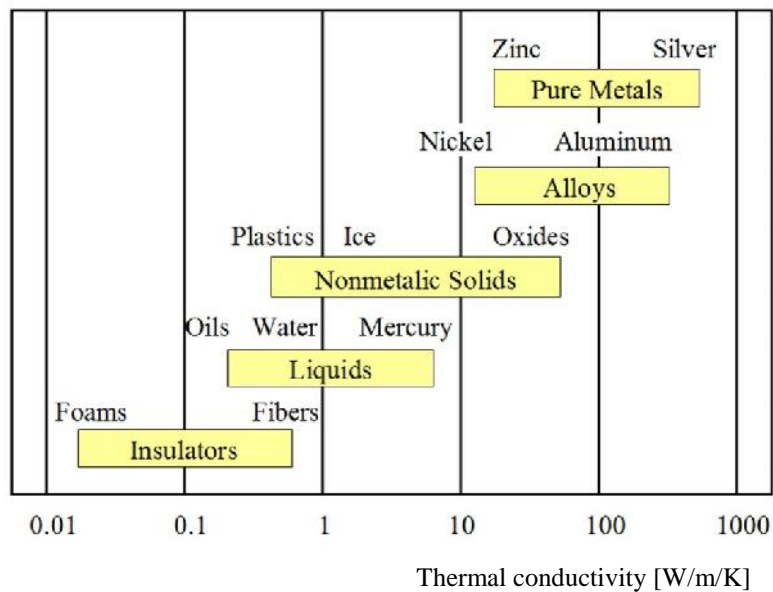


Figure 1-3: Thermal conductivity for different materials.

*There are five orders of magnitude difference in thermal conductivity between the best conductors and best insulators.*

## Convection

Convective heat transfer is the heat flow between a solid body and the surrounding fluid (either liquid or gas). Convective heat transfer can be either natural convection where the fluid flow is due to the variation in specific weight of a hot and cold fluid, or forced convection where the fluid is forced to flow past the solid body. Therefore, natural convection requires gravity (Figure 1-4), and forced convection does not require gravity (Figure 1-5). Since fluid (air, water, steam, oil etc.) is required for heat transfer by convection, this type of heat transfer cannot happen in vacuum. Heat exchanged by convection is expressed as:

$$Q_{CONV} = hA(T_S - T_F)$$

Where:

$Q_{CONV}$  – Heat transferred by convection [W]

$h$  – Convection coefficient [W/m<sup>2</sup>/K]

$A$  – Surface area [m<sup>2</sup>]

$T_S$  – Surface temperature [K]

$T_F$  – Fluid bulk temperature [K]

$T_F$  – Bulk temperature of fluid in contact with surface

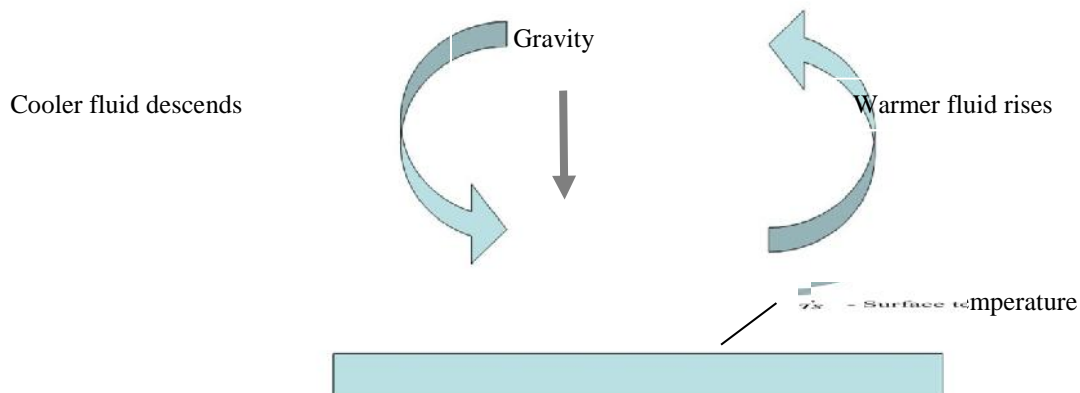


Figure 1-4: Heat transfer by natural convection.

*Convective heat transfer can take place only in the presence of fluid and gravity.*

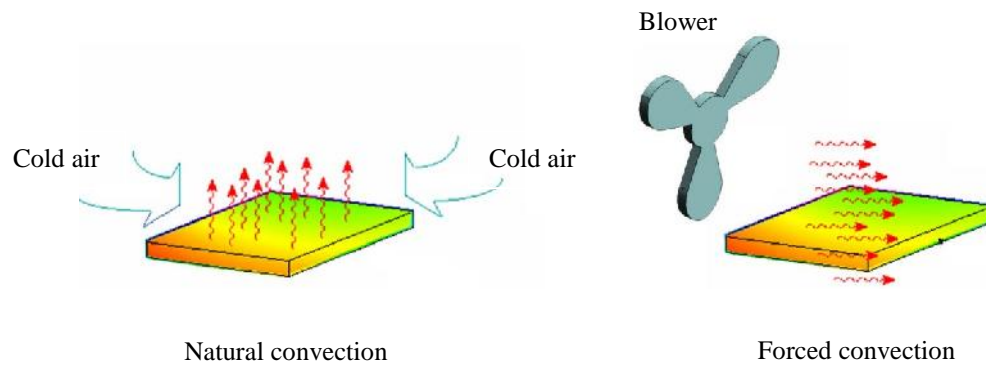


Figure 1-5: Natural and forced convection.

*Forced convection doesn't require gravity.*

The magnitude of the convection coefficient strongly depends on the medium (fluid) surrounding a solid body (Figure 1-6).

Medium	Convection coefficient $\text{W/m}^2/\text{K}$
Air (natural convection)	5-25
Air/superheated steam	20-300
Oil (forced convection)	60-1800
Water (forced convection)	300-6000
Water (boiling)	3000-60000
Steam (condensing)	6000-120000

Figure 1-6: Convection coefficient for different media.

*There are five orders of difference in convection coefficients between different media and different types of convection.*

## Radiation

Radiation heat transfer occurs between a solid body and the ambient or between two solid bodies without presence of any medium (fluid). This is the only type of heat transfer that occurs in a vacuum. Heat flows by electromagnetic radiation. The upper limit to the emissive power is a black body radiating heat and is prescribed by the Stefan-Boltzmann law:

$$q = \sigma T_s^4$$

Where:

$q$  – Heat flux (heat emitted by radiation per unit of area) [W/m<sup>2</sup>]

$\sigma$  – Stefan-Boltzmann constant =  $5.67 \times 10^{-9}$  [W/m<sup>2</sup>/K<sup>4</sup>]

$T_s$  – Surface temperature [K]

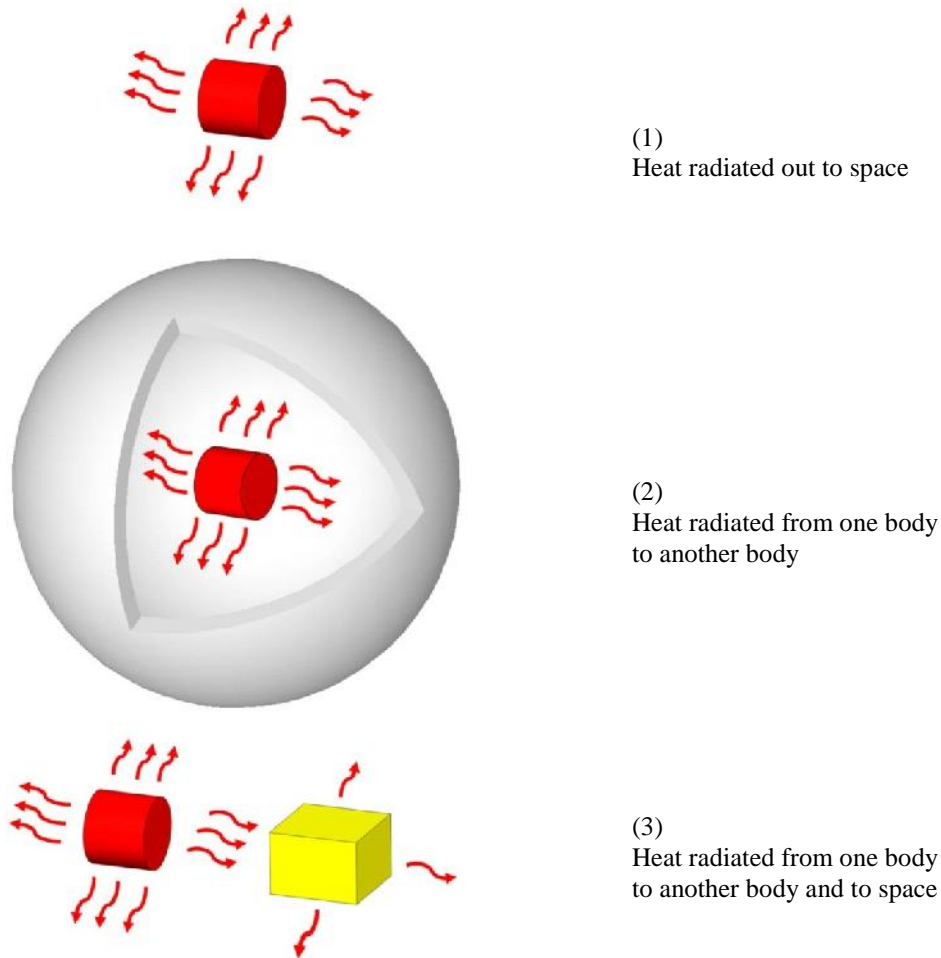
The heat flux emitted by a real surface is less than that of a black body at the same temperature. It is given as:

$$q = \varepsilon \sigma T_s^4$$

where  $\varepsilon$  is a radiative property of a surface called emissivity. Values of  $\varepsilon$  are in the range of 0 to 1 and provide a measure of how well the surface emits radiative energy in comparison to a black body. It depends strongly on the surface material and finish. For example a polished aluminum surface has an emissivity of about 0.05; an oxidized aluminum surface has an emissivity of 0.25. The emissivity also depends on the temperature of the face emitting heat by radiation.

In heat transfer by radiation, heat may be radiated out to space by a single body; it may be exchanged between two bodies or it may be exchanged between two bodies as well as radiated out to space (Figure 1-7).





**Figure 1-7: Different cases of heat transfer by radiation.**

*If heat is exchanged between two bodies only and not radiated out to space, then one body must be fully enclosed by the other body (2). Heat gained by radiation may be radiated out again into space (3).*

Having introduced three mechanisms of heat transfer we need to make a very important statement. With **SOLIDWORKS Simulation** which uses finite element method, only heat transfer by conduction is modeled directly. Convection and radiation are modeled as boundary conditions. This is done by defining convection and/or radiation coefficients to faces that participate in heat exchange between the model and the environment.

The next two examples show how a prescribed temperature, convection and heat load work together to induce heat flow inside a solid body. These examples are not hands-on exercises. Hands-on exercises will start in chapter 2.

### ***Heat Flow Induced By Prescribed Temperatures***

Just like stresses may be caused by prescribed displacement, heat flow may be induced by temperature differences defined by prescribed temperatures. Consider the model BRACKET TH with different temperatures defined on two faces as shown in Figure 1-8. Note that the temperature field establishes itself in the model but heat flow continues due to temperature gradients. Also notice that no heat escapes from the model because we have not defined any mechanism to exchange heat through any surfaces other than the two faces with prescribed temperatures. This implies that model is perfectly insulated, except for two faces where prescribed temperatures are defined and may correspond to a situation where the bracket holding a hot pipe is mounted on a cold surface and heat escaping through faces exposed to air is negligible.

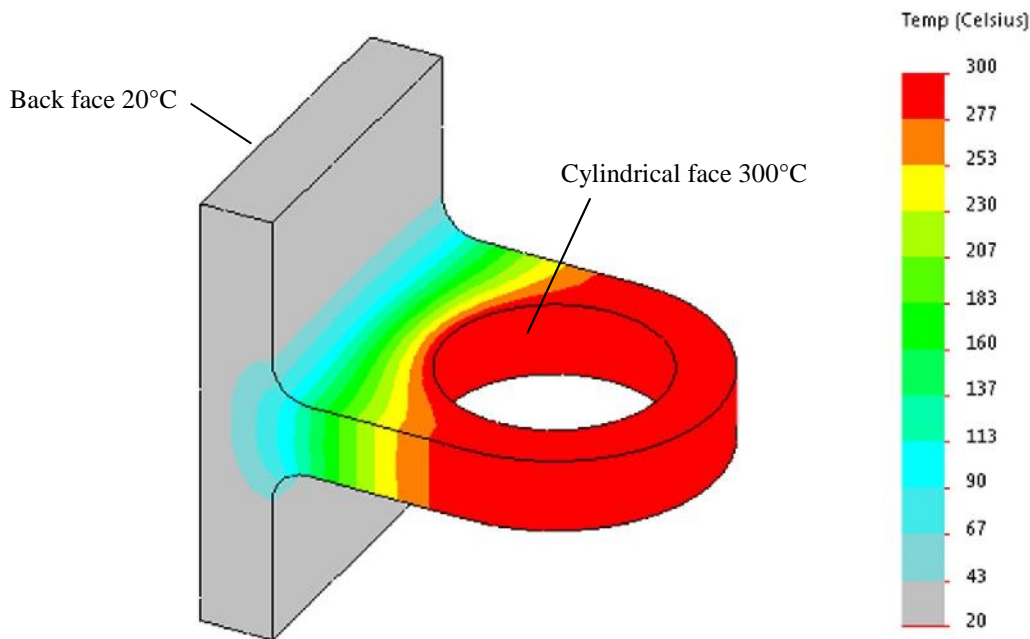


Figure 1-8: Temperature distribution in the model where heat flow is induced by prescribed temperatures.

*A temperature of 300°C is applied to the cylindrical face, and a temperature of 20°C is applied to the back face.*

Plot in Figure 1-8 uses custom colors (grey substituted for blue) to improve black and white print quality. Custom colors will be used frequently to present fringe plots in this book. Custom colors may be defined in **Chart Options** in plot settings.

### ***Heat flow induced by heat load and convection***

Heat flow can also be induced by the applied heat load. The unit of heat load applied to a surface is called heat flux; heat flowing through an imaginary cross-section is also called heat flux. Total heat applied to a volume or face is called heat power. Notice that since thermal analysis deals with heat flow, a mechanism for that heat flow to occur must be in place. In the heat sink problem HEAT SINK01 shown in Figure 1-9 heat enters the radiator model through the base, as defined by the applied heat power which is a close analogy to force load in structural analysis.

Convection coefficients [ $\text{W}/\text{m}^2/\text{K}$ ], also called film coefficients, are defined for all remaining surfaces and provide the way to remove heat from the model. Heat enters the model through the base where heat power is defined. Heat escapes the model through faces where convection coefficients are defined.

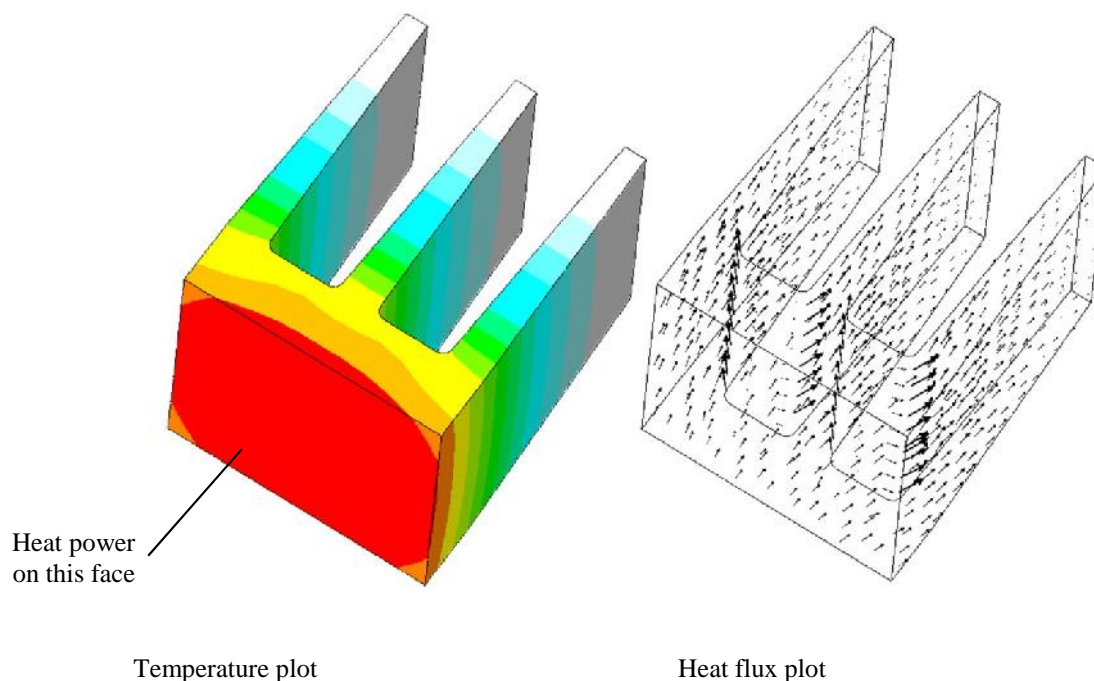


Figure 1-9: Temperature distribution and heat flux in a heat sink model.

*A temperature plot being a scalar quantity can be only shown using a fringe display. Heat flux is a vector quantity and can be illustrated either by a fringe plot or vector plot. Notice that arrows “coming out” of the walls illustrate heat that escapes the model because of convection.*

The structural analogy of convection coefficients is a bit less intuitive. Convection coefficients are analogous to elastic support offered by distributed springs. Just like supports and/or

prescribed displacements are necessary to establish model equilibrium in structural analysis problem, convection coefficients and/or prescribed temperatures are necessary to establish heat flow in thermal analysis problem. Indeed, an attempt to run thermal analysis with heat loads but with no convection coefficients or prescribed temperatures results in an error similar to the one caused by the absence of supports in structural analysis.

### ***Modeling considerations in thermal analysis***

Symmetry boundary conditions can be used in thermal analysis based on the observation that if symmetry exists in both geometry and boundary conditions, then there is no heat flowing through a plane of symmetry. After simplifying the model to  $\frac{1}{2}$  in case of single symmetry or to  $\frac{1}{4}$  in case of double symmetry (Figure 1-10), nothing needs to be done to surfaces exposed by cuts. No convection coefficients defined for those surfaces means that no heat flows across them.

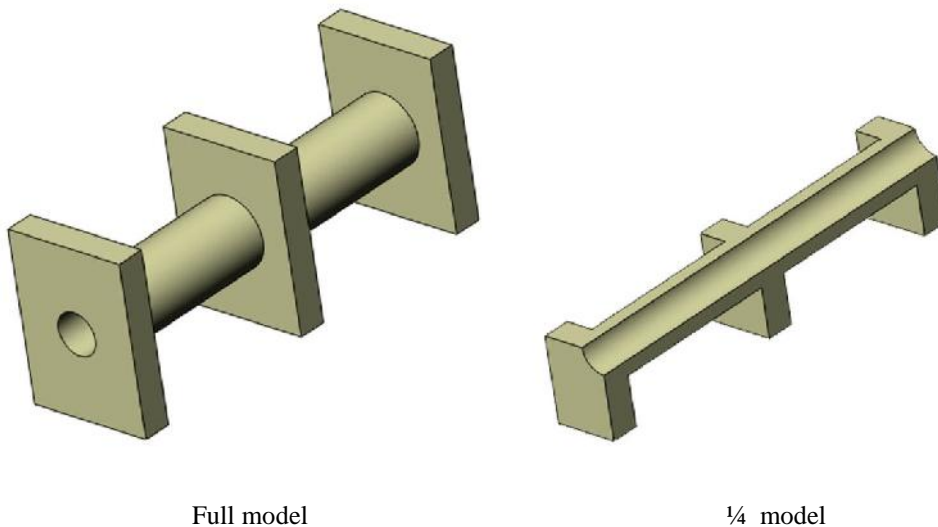


Figure 1-10: Model DOUBLE SYM with double symmetry can be simplified to  $\frac{1}{4}$  of its size.  
*No thermal boundary conditions are applied to faces in the plane of symmetry.*

Axisymmetric problems may be represented by 2D models as shown in Figure 1-11.

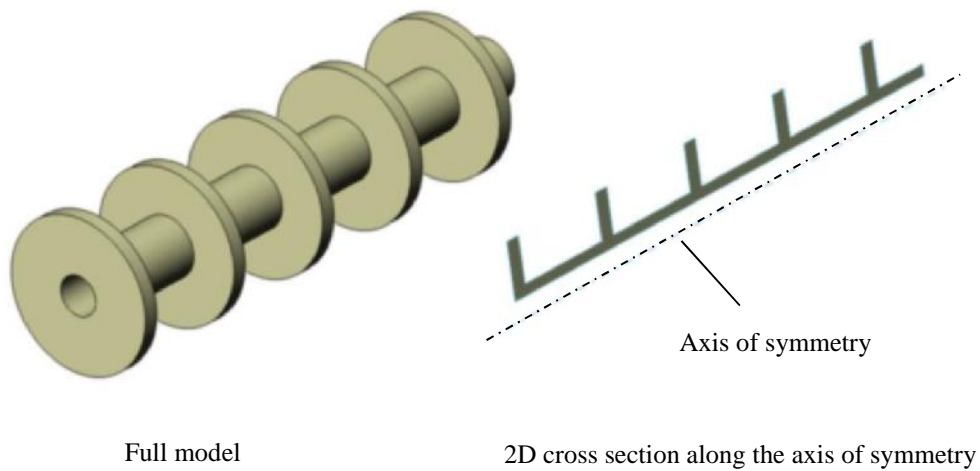


Figure 1-11: Axisymmetric model AXISYM represented by a 2D cross section.

Notice that models DOUBLE SYM (Figure 1-10) and AXISYM (Figure 1-11) are suitable for analysis of temperature, but because of sharp re-entrant edges, they are not suitable for analysis of heat flux in the vicinity of the sharp re-entrant edges because heat flux there is singular. This is in direct analogy to sharp re-entrant edges causing stress singularities in structural models.

Once you acquire sufficient familiarity with thermal analysis you are encouraged to analyze models BRACKET TH, HEAT SINK01, DOUBLE SYM and AXISYM using thermal parameters of your choice.

Let's wrap up this review with an important observation which will serve as a guide to all thermal analysis problems. In structural analysis we define a load path by defining loads and supports. In a heat transfer problem, we define a mechanism of heat transfer; we must know how heat enters the model, how it travels through the model and how it exits the model.

### ***Types of thermal analysis***

Thermal analysis may be linear or nonlinear, steady state or time-dependent as shown in Figure 1-12.

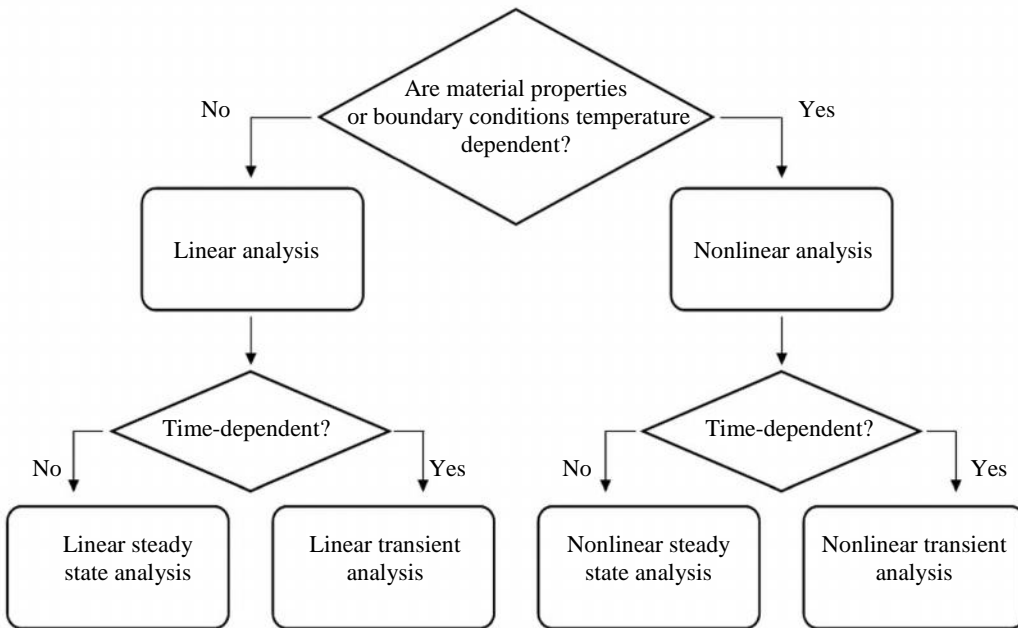


Figure 1-12: Types of thermal analyses.

In linear analysis, the conductivity matrix does not change during the solution process, in nonlinear analysis it must be modified because material properties and/or boundary conditions are temperature dependent. In steady state analysis, material conditions and boundary conditions do not change with time; in time dependent (transient) they do change.

We will be working with all of types of thermal analyses shown in Figure 1-12.

### ***Thermal analysis with SOLIDWORKS Simulation***

**SOLIDWORKS Simulation** uses methods of finite element analysis to solve both structural and thermal problems. CAD models prepared in **SOLIDWORKS** are discretized (meshed) into finite elements which type depends on the type of geometry prepared in **SOLIDWORKS**. Solid bodies are meshed into solid elements; Surface bodies are meshed into shell elements; 2D axisymmetric and extruded models are meshed into corresponding 2D elements. Types of finite elements, meshing techniques and other mesh specific considerations are discussed in details in the pre-requisite text “**Engineering Analysis with SOLIDWORKS Simulation**”. Here we limit our review to thermal analysis specific issues.

Elements available in thermal analysis with **SOLIDWORKS Simulation** are shown in Figure 1-13. Notice that beam elements are not available in thermal analysis.

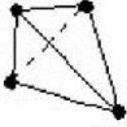
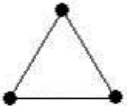
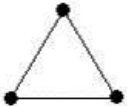
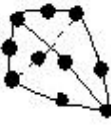
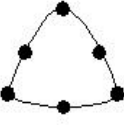
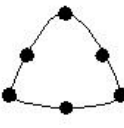
	3D elements		2D elements
	Solid elements	Shell elements	Axisymmetric elements Extruded elements
<b>First order element</b>  Linear (first order) temperature field  Constant heat flux field			
<b>Second order element</b>  Parabolic (second order) temperature field  Linear heat flux field			

Figure 1-13: Elements available in thermal analysis with SOLIDWORKS Simulation.

*The majority of analyses use the second order tetrahedral element.*

First order elements do not offer any advantages in either structural or thermal analysis and beam elements are neither applicable nor available in thermal analysis. Therefore we are left with second order solids and second order shells to model 3D problems and second order plate elements to model 2D axisymmetric or extruded problems.

Prior to commencing work with thermal problems, make sure that **Solid Bodies** and **Surface Bodies** are visible in the **SOLIDWORKS** Feature Manager (Figure 1-14).

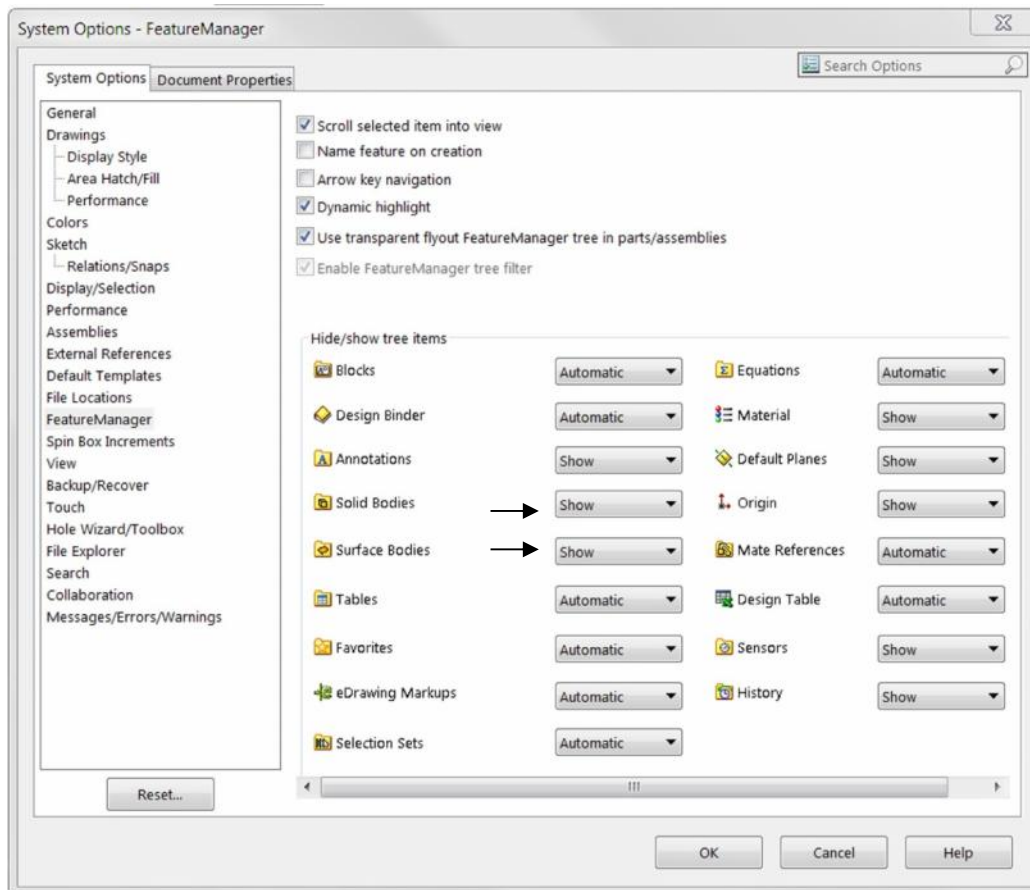


Figure 1-14: Settings of Feature Manager.

*To facilitate working with Simulation models make sure that Solid Bodies and Surface Bodies are always visible.*



***Notes:***

## 2: Hollow plate

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### *Topics covered*

- ❑ Heat transfer by conduction
- ❑ Heat transfer by convection
- ❑ Different ways of presenting results of thermal analysis
- ❑ Convergence analysis in thermal problems
- ❑ Solid elements in heat transfer problems
- ❑ Shell elements in heat transfer problems

### *Project description*

We'll conduct thermal analysis of simple models to study the effects of discretization error and the use of different types of elements. In this chapter we use our expertise in structural analysis gained from “**Engineering Analysis with SOLIDWORKS Simulation**”. We use HOLLOW PLATE TH, similar to the model from this introductory textbook where it is used in structural analysis examples.

Open model HOLLOW PLATE TH and review the two configurations: *01 solid* where the model is represented as a solid body and *02 shell* where the model is represented as a surface body. Stay in the *01 solid* configuration and create a thermal study called *01 solid*. Apply the prescribed temperature boundary conditions as shown in Figure 2-1; these prescribed temperatures will induce heat flow from hot to cold.